



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)

Quick Reference: Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas

Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs) are statistical geographic entities representing the permanent and/or seasonal residences for Alaska Natives who are members of, or receiving governmental services from, the defining Alaska Native village (ANV) located within the region and vicinity of the ANV's historic and/or traditional location. The primary purpose of delineating an ANVSA is to produce meaningful, relevant, and reliable statistical data for Alaska Natives and their ANVs. The Census Bureau uses ANVSA boundaries in the tabulation and presentation of data from the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS).

An ANV is eligible to delineate an ANVSA if it is either:

1. Recognized by and eligible to receive services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA),
2. Recognized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) as either a Native village or Native group.

Recognition is determined by inclusion of an ANV on the BIA's list of recognized tribes or by addenda to the list as published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. ANCSA recognition is determined by inclusion of an ANV on the list of ANCSA-recognized Native villages and Native groups maintained by Bureau of Land Management, (Alaska Region Office).

Census Bureau criteria specify that ANVSAs must:

- Be located in areas of historical and traditional significance for the ANV as referenced in either:
 - BIA-recognized name for an ANV.
 - Former BIA-recognized name for an ANV.
 - Bureau of Land Management ANCSA-recognized name.
- Encompass the densely settled part of the ANV.
- Not overlap, or completely surround, another ANVSA or American Indian reservation.
- Have their entire area located within 50 miles of the ANV point location.
- Not include more water area than land area.
- Not include military installations or area within a Census 2010 urbanized area.
- Be named to match the corresponding ANV name listed in the Federal Register Notice, Vol 73, No. 214/Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Census Bureau guidelines recommend that ANVSAs:

- Be delineated within the Alaska Native regional corporation boundary in which it is located.
- Encompass no more than 325 sq. miles in area.
- Have the majority of their housing units, even if only seasonably used, occupied by Alaska Natives.
- Have a significant part of the population who are Alaska Native during at least one season or three months and the majority should be members of the delineating ANV.
- Not contain large areas without housing or population. Census Bureau suggests a minimum density of three housing units per square mile.
- Be contiguous.
- Only include water area if it maintains contiguity, provides a generalized version of the shoreline, or is completely surrounded by land area that is included in the ANVSA.
- Have boundaries that preferably follow visible, physical features such as rivers, streams, shorelines, glaciers, roads, trails, and ridgelines.
- Only follow nonvisible boundaries if they are legally defined boundaries of Alaska Native regional corporations, boroughs, or cities in Alaska.
- Only use nonvisible lines for an ANVSA boundary if other acceptable boundary features are not available.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions.